

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082798

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WITH INFO BEIRUT LONDON AND WELLINGTON
FROM CANBERRA DATED 02 MAY 73 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2473

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, IZ , AS

SUBJ: APPROACH TO GOA ON PLIGHT OF IRAQI JEWS

REF: A) STATE 080551 B) CANBERRA 0930 C) CANBERRA 0869

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AFTER CONSULTING WITH LOCAL ISRAELI
EMBASSY, EMBOFF SAW DFA OFFICIAL IN MIDDLE EAST BRANCH
TO REPORT RECENT INFORMATION ABOUT IRAQI JEWS CONTAINED
REF A. DFA OFFICIAL HAD LITTLE TO REPORT IN WAY OF
AUSTRALIAN ACTION AND GENERAL IMPRESSION WAS GIVEN THAT
LITTLE ACTION BY GOA CAN BE EXPECTED UNLESS POLITICAL
LEADERSHIP WISHES TO TAKE GREATER INTEREST IN SUBJECT.
END SUMMARY: ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT CAN GIVE FOR REPLY TO SUGGESTION
BY ISRAELI EMBASSY THAT AMEMBASSY ENCOURAGE SELCTED
GROUPS WITHIN AUSTRALIA TO MAKE THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT
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PLIGHT OF IRAQI JEWS KNOWN TO GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA.

2. EMBOFF SAW LEWIS, MIDDLE EAST BRANCH OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAY 2 TO RAISE SUBJECT OF IRAQI JEWS IN GENERAL AND TO REPORT RECENT INFORMATION THAT FAMILY OF FIVE REPORTED KILLED AND 16 OTHER IRAQI JEWS APPARENTLY ARE MISSING SINCE FEBRUARY. LEWIS SEEMED TO BE INFORMED ABOUT MOST RECENT REPORTS. HE STATED ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ERELL HAD SEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY COOPER OF DFA ON SAME SUBJECT MAY 1. LEWIS STATED THERE HAD BEEN NO RESULTS FROM PREVIOUS GOA CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT BUT THAT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO "KEEP EAR TO GROUND" ON SUBJECT AND REPORT. UNFORTUNATELY, LEWIS STATED, AUSTRALIA IS IN MIDST OF CHANGING AMBASSADORS IN BEIRUT BUT THAT WHEN OCCASION ARISES, NEW AMBASSADOR EXPECTED MAKE PERIODIC TRIP TO BAGHDAD IN WHICH HE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SITUATION. WHEN ASKED IF GOA HAD INITIATED ANY APPROACHES THROUGH AUSTRALIAN REP IN U. S., LEWIS REPLIED HE WAS NOT INFORMED OF ANY.

3. PRIOR TO SEEING LEWIS, EMBOFF SPOKE WITH MR. HASSIN, FIRST SECRETARY OF ISRAELI EMBASSY, IN ORDER TO COORDINATE EMBASSY'S APPROACH. IN ADDITION TO AMBASSADOR ERELL'S CALL ON COOPER MENTIONED ABOVE, HASSIN STATED ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HAS AGAIN APPROACHED SPIGELMAN IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ABOUT MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO IRAQI GOVERNMENT. SPIGELMAN APPARENTLY REPORTED THAT AUSTRALIAN REP AT U. N. HAD SPOKEN BRIEFLY WITH THE IRAQI REP ON SUBJECT BUT HUSSIN STATED THAT ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HERE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF ANY RESULTS OF THIS APPROACH. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, HASSIN ASKED IF EMBASSY WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE INTEREST IN GETTING INTERESTED GROUPS WITHIN AUSTRALIA TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF IRAQI JEWS TO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. EMBOFF NOTED INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON DID NOT COVER THIS POINT ALTHOUGH IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT USG WAS PROVIDING SUPPORT ONLY IN RAISING SUBJECT WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD AT THIS STAGE.

4. COMMENT: IMPRESSION LEFT AFTER CONVERSATION WITH
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LEWIS OF DFA IS THAT WHILE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INTEREST IN SUBJECT, IT IS NOT PREPARED TO TAKE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEASURES IN ORDER TO ADD ITS VOICE TO THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES PROTESTING TREATMENT OF IRAQI JEWS. FACT THAT GOA DOES NOT RECOGNIZE NOR HAS OFFICIAL RESIDENT IN BAGHDAD IS GIVEN AS REASON FOR AUSTRALIAN INACTION. BARRING CHANGE OF HEART AT POLITICAL LEVEL

IN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, E. G. PRIME MINISTER' S OFFICE,
IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT GOA WILL TAKE ACTIVE PART IN
PROTESTS THIS SUBJECT.
RICE

UNQUOTE
ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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